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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SPECIAL MEETING.

OF THE

Medical and Chirurgial Faculty

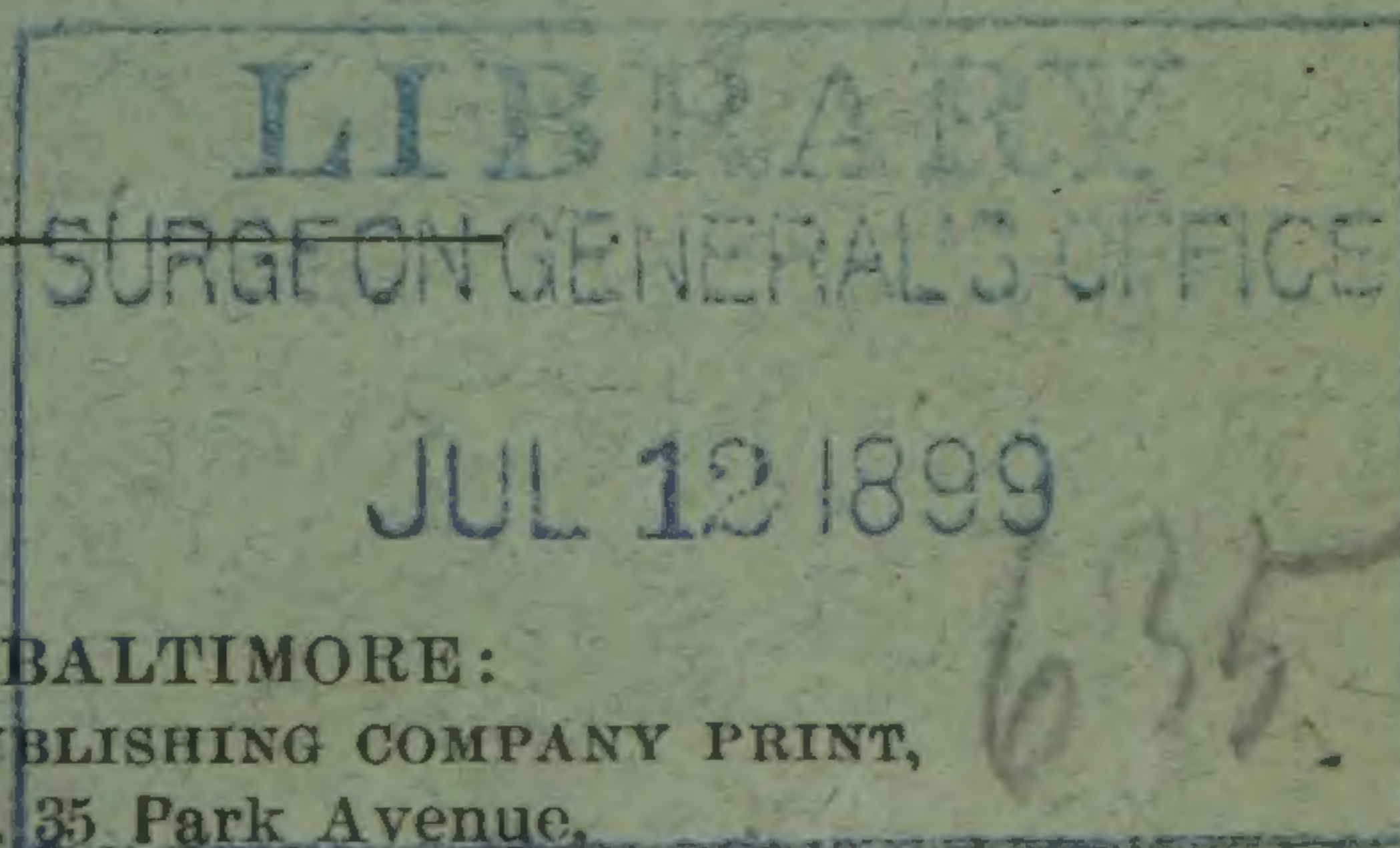
OF MARYLAND

IN RELATION TO THE DEATH

—OF—

DR. RIGGIN BUCKLER,

HELD SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1884.



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RESOLUTIONS AND ADDRESSES.

At a special meeting of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, held September 2nd, to take action on the death of DR. RIGGIN BUCKLER, of Baltimore, the following resolutions and addresses delivered.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, DR. I. E. ATKINSON. On motion, a Committee of five was appointed to draft resolutions.

In submitting the resolutions, DR. MURDOCH said: I am sure Mr. President that every member of this Faculty has heard with deep regret of the death of our confrere, Dr. Riggin Buckler. Though not as much known outside of this City, as his talents deserved, his loss will be very widely and deeply felt in this community.

He was a man, Mr. President, who was liked and trusted by his numerous patients, both in his private and professional capacity. Always genuine and thoroughly, detesting shams and pretenses of every kind, he never condescended to use them; even when it might have seemed much to his advantage to do so. Having a strong, natural taste for his profession, he was by nature thoroughly fitted for its practice. No one was more fertile in resources in difficult cases, and gifted with a strong memory, he never forgot a hint gathered from reading or experience. Under a manner sometimes almost brusque, though never, I think, harsh, he had great kindness of heart, and his manner was never other than gentle and tender, where he saw real suffering. I, myself, Mr. President, have known Dr. Buckler for many years, and shall deeply miss him, both as a friend, whose friendship was dear to me, and as a colleague

with whom I could always consult with profit. I am requested by your Committee to present the following Resolutions :

WHEREAS, the MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL FACULTY OF MARYLAND, has heard with profound regret of the death of their late Colleague, Dr. Riggin Buckler, therefore,

Resolved, That in Dr. Buckler, the medical profession has lost an upright gentleman, and a learned practitioner.—his many friends and patients, a man well worthy of the love and trust so universally given to *him* by them.

Resolved, That we desire to have placed upon record the high appreciation, in which Dr. Buckler's qualities both in his professional and private capacity, are held by this faculty.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to enter these resolutions among the transactions of this Society and to send a copy to our late Colleague's family.

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------|
| [Signed] | T. F. MURDOCH, M. D. | } Committee: |
| " | F. DONALDSON, M. D. | |
| " | J. H. PATTERSON, M. D. | |
| " | JOHN F. MONMONIER, M. D. | |
| " | WM. LEE, M. D. | |

DR. FRANK DONALDSON, in seconding the resolutions presented by the Committee, said : I am glad, Mr. Chairman, to avail myself of this opportunity of paying my tribute of respect to the memory of *Dr. Riggin Buckler*. This, sir, is no ordinary occasion, for *Dr. Buckler* was no ordinary man. He was an eminent practitioner. He was endowed by Nature with a high order of intellect. By study and culture he became a man of scientific attainments in and outside of his profession. By close and accurate observation, he had become familiar with disease in all its intricacies. He grappled with it as a master who understood how to use his implements with effect.

These resolutions, laudatory as these are, only do justice to his reputation and to his manly virtues.

I had known Dr. Buckler intimately since he was a young student of medicine, and had had ample opportunity of form-

ing a correct estimate of his abilities, and of duly appreciating his strong points of character.

Dr. Buckler was a resident graduate at the Alms-House Hospital when I was one of the attending physicians. While there his devotion to his duties and his intelligent observation of diseases, gave promise of his future success as a practitioner of medicine.

Dr. Buckler belonged to a family well-known as one possessing great talents. His father was eminent as a man of science and as a physician. From him Dr. Riggini Buckler inherited some of his most remarkable traits of character and a mind always active in search of truth. Like his father, he was quick in arriving at a diagnosis and his conclusions were generally accurate and logical, because he gave each and every symptom, objective and subjective, its co-relative value.

Early in his professional career, Dr. Riggini Buckler showed that he possessed the manly qualities which, in after life endeared him to his patients. Among these there was great gentleness of manner with kindness in treating the sick, especially among the poor. During an epidemic of Cholera at the Alms-House he was untiring in his efforts to save life, and to alleviate the sufferings of the paupers. He never thought of himself or of any danger he incurred in exposure to infection, no matter how violent the organic poison.

In consultation, with Dr. Buckler, I always found him to be a straight-forward, frank practitioner. His successful treatment of his cases necessarily drew to him many patients. His confidence in his own skill inspired the same feeling among his patients. His opinions carried weight with them that they felt assured his diagnoses were correct. His prescriptions were esteemed by them as a guarantee that a cure would be effected if a cure was possible. They had the most unbounded confidence in his medical acumen. The whole community indeed, looked up to him as an eminent, clear-headed practitioner. This reputation he acquired by the force of his character and his great skill. He was incapable of resorting to any questionable means of promoting his popularity. His professional

conduct was worthy of his noble, high-toned nature. To his patients his death is an irreparable loss, for he was not only their medical adviser, but he was their kind and sympathising friend. We in the profession cherish kindly remembrances of his scientific attainments and his courtly intercourse.

I have no disposition, Mr. President, to venture within the sacred precincts of his domestic life, but such a man could not have been other than a devoted husband and a fond father. Who can estimate the loss his family have sustained? They are entitled to our earnest, cordial sympathy in their great sorrow.

In conclusion, let us trust that the community and the profession, may in the future have more of such men as practitioners—if not, as we hope, by the name of Buckler, yet men with the characteristics, which have heretofore distinguished those who have borne that honored name.

DR. PATTERSON said: Mr. President, I desire to second the resolutions which have been submitted, and to add a few words in tribute to the memory of my deceased friend. I was a student in his father's office 47 years ago, when he was a mere lad, and from that time I have watched his career. He was an honorable, high-minded man, bold and outspoken on every occasion. I always entertained a sincere affection for him, for I always found him worthy of my esteem. As a physician he was prompt, decisive and reliable. His natural abilities were good and his reading very extensive. I have ever found benefit from his counsels and pleasure from his friendship. As a man he was frank and independent and highly honorable. He never sought to ingratiate himself into the good graces of families nor to take advantage of consultations to advance personal interest. He was a man who will be much missed in the profession, because he represented the principles of the old school of medical men—a school in which I myself was brought up. The modes and methods of medical men have greatly changed since that day. Civility and courtesy and reciprocity of kindnesses were a fixed rule of action. Young men were modest and retiring and evinced towards their seniors the ut-

most respect, but it is not necessary at present to dwell on this. In Doctor Buckler's death, I feel the loss of a personal friend, and it is a sad pleasure for me to-day to add this feeble tribute of respect to his memory.

DR. WATERS said: Mr. President, probably I am the only member of the profession present here to-day, who was a fellow-student and I believe a fellow-graduate with Dr. Buckler. There seems to be, therefore, a peculiar fitness that I should add a word to what has already been so justly and appropriately said in regard to our deceased friend. Surely no living person has more reason to be grateful to the name of Buckler than myself, for to the distinguished father of the deceased Lowe, under Providence, all that life represents, whether of enjoyment, of capacity, or performance. An attack of pleurisy was followed by empyema for which he tapped me three several times, it being either the first or second time the operation had been done by him in this City. Whether it had been performed by other hands I am not aware. Among the students, two were easily pre-eminent—Riggin Buckler and Montgomery Johns. Dr. Buckler enjoyed advantages for acquiring the elements of a liberal education that are far from being the common lot of medical men in this country. A graduate of Harvard University, his fine natural endowments had been stimulated, his emulation excited, his taste refined and cultivated, so that he entered upon the study of a learned profession already prepared by superior mental training to pursue it with success. And while he speedily showed proficiency in its several subjects, as exhibited by the promptitude and correctness of his answers during the oral examinations held at various times by the several professors, in chemistry particularly, that branch of science ordinarily so lightly esteemed and so conspicuously neglected by the average medical student, he exhibited a familiarity and thoroughness that were equally admirable and exceptionable. Whether the questions were directed to the organic or inorganic divisions of the subject, however intricate the analysis, however complicated the formula, in decompositions, recompositions or combining equivalents, he

always appeared entirely at home, and seemed to be unfailingly accurate. Having a taste for the subject myself, I could not but feel the greatest interest in his answers, and admiration for that diligence and conscientiousness in study, as well as for those well-balanced and vigorous mental powers which kept him always self-poised, and always prepared against surprise. In microscopy also he had made no inconsiderable attainments and this at a time when there were not the incentives from competition that exist now. In the rear of his father's dwelling he had fitted up a suitable room where he could pursue with convenience his investigations in these two branches of science, and where he doubtless laid the foundation of that exact knowledge of them which was no less the ornament of his subsequent professional life, than it contributed to its usefulness and success. Thus early, with the example of his eminent father before him, and with the aid derived from his vast experience and almost infallible judgment, did he give evidence of the sagacity and industry which in the future were to secure him the confidence of his patients, the esteem of his brethren in the profession, and an eminent rank among its distinguished practitioners. Our spheres of duty have been widely separated, and thus no opportunity has presented itself to me to renew the pleasurable acquaintance of the friendship of our earlier years. It is gratifying to know, however, from the testimony of those who knew him well who have spoken here to-day, as well as from the reputation he so easily won that was not limited within the confines of his native State, that no promise of his beautiful youth was blighted, that no hope had beamed along the future pathway of his life perished unfulfilled, that the most sanguine expectations of his professional success and usefulness were more than realized prior to his premature death. Years ago I was present at a meeting of the medical profession of this City, convened to take action appropriate to the decease of Dr. John Buckler, presided over by the illustrious man whose lineaments this day look down upon us so expressively from these walls [Prof. N. R. Smith,] It was also my melancholy privilege to be present at his funeral.

"The lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime."

And their deaths equally admonish us so to live that—

——"When our summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, that moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death
We go not like the quarry-slave at night
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach our grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

DOCTOR MORRIS'S REMARKS.

Mr. President: In common with the other members of the Faculty, I deeply deplore the death of our late colleague, Dr. Riggins Buckler, and desire to second the resolutions submitted by the Committee.

In the death of Dr. Buckler the profession loses a representative man. He was a type of the gentlemen of the old school of medicine with whom "*noblesse oblige*" was a ruling sentiment. I allude to the men of the past; such men as Donaldson, Baker, the Mackenzies, Pierre Chatard, Richard Sprigg Steuart, George S. Gibson, and his own father, Dr. John Buckler.

Dr. Buckler was an able, honorable and conscientious physician. He was essentially a medical man." All his tastes, his reading, the very nature of his mind, tended to the formation of the medical character. In his mental constitution to great positiveness and directness of judgment were added quickness of perception and rapidity of thought, and, as a consequent outcome, earnestness of opinion. His natural abilities were good and his reading both extensive and comprehensive. It embraced both medicine and the collateral sciences. He was eminently practical in the investigation and treatment of disease, whilst at all times cherishing the true scientific spirit. In every relation he upheld in the highest degree the honor and dignity of the profession.

As a man he was bold, frank and independent. Absolutely free from cant he despised all ostentation and self-adulation. He possessed a remarkable personal magnetism, which not only attracted but held fast the many friends who appreciated the sincerity, manliness and originality of his character. As a physician, citizen, friend, his memory will be held in lasting remembrance.

His premature death in the midst of a career of usefulness has produced a feeling of profound sadness in the community ; but long life is not always a full life. Dr. Buckler, from his earliest youth, was a hard, earnest worker in the line of his profession, and crowded into his brief career useful activities which would have sufficed for the life of a much older man. The German poet says :—

Lang leben ist nicht viel leben.
Viel Wirken ist viel leben.

and if this sentiment be accepted, his life was surely long. The calmness, patience and resignation which characterized his illness and death gave evidence of his strong character and unconquerable will ; for no Christian martyr, Jewish patriarch or Pagan philosopher could have borne with greater fortitude the agonies of the last month of his stay on the earth. His life and death exemplified the sentiment of Saint Augustine: "Sunt qui cum patientia moriuntur, sunt autem quidam perfecti, qui cum patientia vivunt."

Let us, then, not unavailingly mourn for our friend, but cherish his many virtues, emulate what was noble in his character, and by our devotion to our great calling endeavor to leave, as he has left, a good name, a memory to be respected, and a loving place in the hearts of surviving friends.

REMARKS MADE BY DR. WILLIAM LEE.

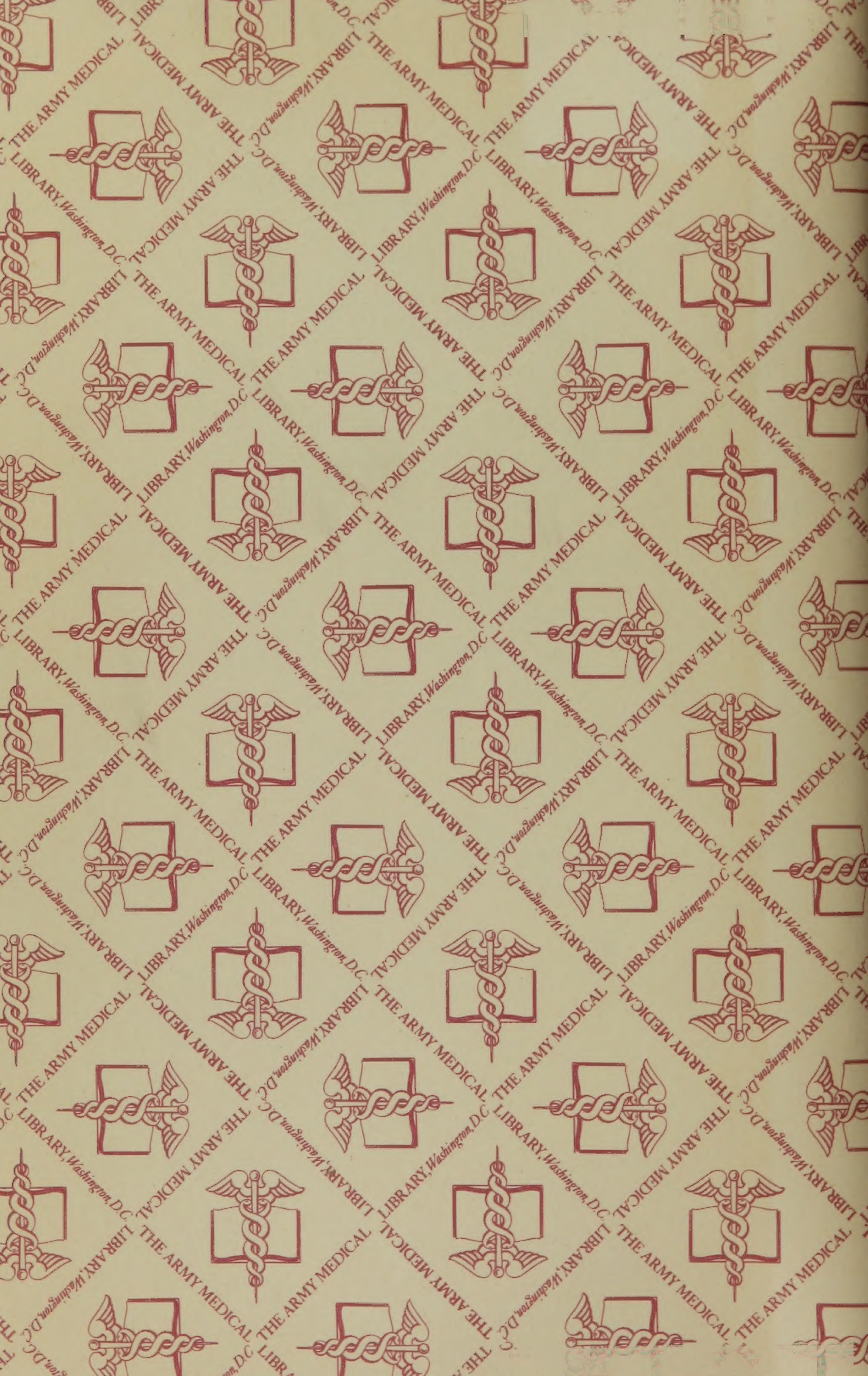
It seems most appropriate that I should speak of Dr. Buckler, not as of a colleague only, but as a patient would of a dearly beloved physician, for during many years he was my family

physician, and endeared himself to us all. To his skill I not only owe my life, but on several occasions that of one of my children.

My acquaintance with Dr. B. dates from the early part of our late war, when he was on a visit in the vicinity of Burkettsville, Md. Shortly after his arrival were fought the battles of South Mountain, Antietam and Crampton's Gap, and many of the wounded were taken to the homes of residents. There he, with myself and others, nursed and attended with untiring energy a number of the wounded of both sides, and although solicited by telegrams to return to the city, he would not give up this noble work of charity until all were cared for.

Among his many other gifts, that of endearing himself to his patients, stands out most forcibly, for not only was he ready to attend the wealthy but the needy poor found him ever willing to benefit them by his skill.

Being nature's nobleman—a gentleman—he never violated the Code of Ethics by forgetting the obligations due a fellow-practitioner, and to the younger members of the profession was he especially courteous and ever ready to benefit them with experience and unerring judgment. Indeed, his loss will be universally felt and his place hard to fill.



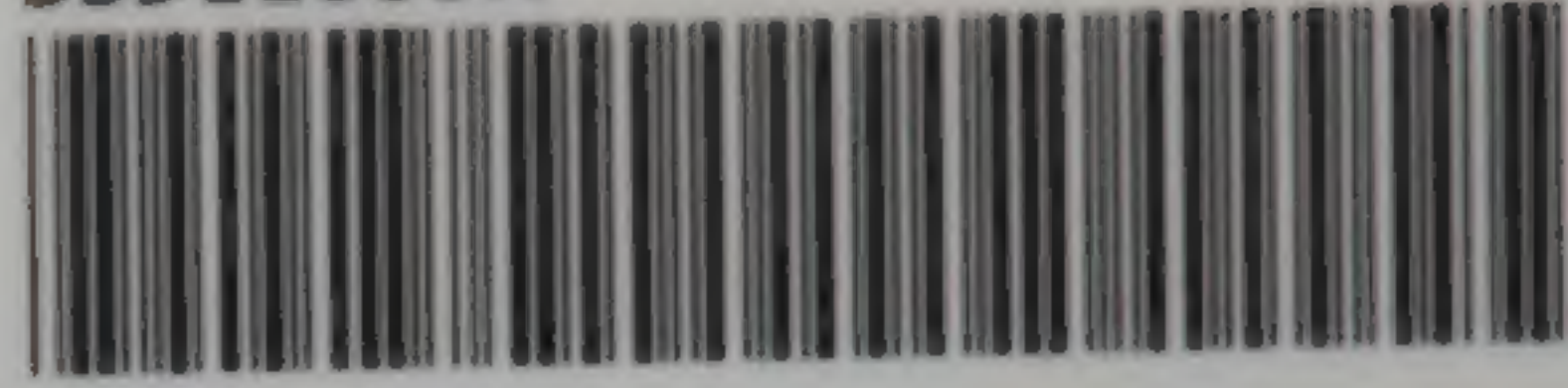
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